

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2017, 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Nina Daniel, Selectman Chris Spaulding, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Weston Residents

Selectman Dennis Tracey was not present

This meeting was videotaped and recorded. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Daniel called the meeting to order at: 7:30pm

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Moira Relac
2. **Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of the following people to the Sustainability Committee for a term to end December 31, 2018.** Mr. Spaulding moved to appoint the following people to the Sustainability Committee for a term to end December 31, 2018:
Ellen Strauss
Scott Licamele
Natalie Terrill
Russ Goodwyn
Marc de Mul
Bonnie Troy
Amy Kalafa
and students Holly DeBarger, Cassie Kelly and Mia St. Angelo
Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.
3. **Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Rod Rivera to the Veteran's Affairs Committee for a term to end December 31, 2018.** Moira Relac of the Veteran's Affairs Committee spoke on Mr. Rivera's behalf. Mr. Spaulding moved to appoint of Rod Rivera to the Veteran's Affairs Committee for a term to end December 31, 2018. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Discussion/decision to hire Maureen Johnson as Library Assistant starting on Monday, February 27, 2017.** This position will be helpful during the search for a permanent library director. Mr. Spaulding moved to hire Maureen Johnson as a seasonal/Part Time Library Assistant starting on Monday, February 27, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.
5. **Discussion/decision to appoint Nancy Lincoln and Karen Bennett as interim library directors.** Ms. Daniel moved that the Town appoint Nancy Lincoln and Karen Bennett as interim library directors, pursuant to the MOU dated February 23, 2017, effective February 13th 2017 until a permanent Library Director is appointed. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

6. **Discussion/decision to approve a participation agreement for municipal textile recycling services with Baystate Textiles Inc.** This program is for textiles that are not donation worthy, they can be recycled – and the town will receive \$100 per ton that is picked up – this will in the long run save us money by not putting it in the regular garbage. Mr. Spaulding moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign a participation agreement for municipal textile recycling services with Baystate Textiles Inc., subject to review by the Town Attorney. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

7. **Discussion/decision regarding the Lachat Town Farm Farmer's Market Proposal – Elizabeth Zeppernick, Lachat Town Farm Commission.** (See Farmers Market proposal attached) No motion.

8. **Property Tax Refunds**

VW CREDIT LEASING	\$	35.19
USB LEASING	\$	444.83
JP MORGAN CHASE	\$	372.71
RICHARD LYALL	\$	58.88
JP MORGAN CHASE	\$	258.13
TIMOTHY KOLLER	\$	66.83
ROBERT ROSIELLO	\$	24.47
ELIZABETH MONTELLI	\$	160.33
US BANK NA	\$	343.56
PETER BOWER	\$	214.68
HONDA LEASE TRUST	\$	296.45
	\$	2,276.06

Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the Property Tax Refunds as listed on the February 23rd Board of Selectmen Agenda for a total amount of \$2,276.06. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

9. **Minutes Approval: February 2, 2017**

Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 2, 2017. Mr. Tracey abstained. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

10. **First Selectman's Updates:**

- a. **Rt. 57** – Ms. Daniel spoke about the progress being made
- b. **Drug Prevention Efforts** – There have been over 1000 drug overdose deaths in CT this past year. Ms. Daniel said the schools here will be prioritizing this issue, surveying parents and students. Our SRO has been very successful in our schools.
- c. **State Budget Cuts**- Budget requirements, teacher pensions and unfunded mandates were discussed.

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11. **Any other business to come properly before this meeting.** - None

12. **Adjourn** Mr. Spaulding moved to adjourn at 8:18pm. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved: March 23, 2017

The proposed Lachat Farmer's Market will be a monthly event with local farmers, vendors, catering food trucks, children's programming, and live music. The market will take place on the last Friday of each month from 4-8pm with programming and will serve as the social heart of Weston. The market will be built on three guiding principles of the farm's promise to the Lachat family- to let the farm be a vehicle of education, to support local agriculture and to strengthen the bonds of the community.

The Lachat Farmer's Market will create an environment where the simplicity of food is revered as a source of beauty and intrigue. We will work with vendors to not just entice but to educate the visitors to their stalls with featured vendors at each market who will share the art of their produce. We have begun to stir the generations with strategies to involve Westonites from toddler to senior with educational programs which appeal to all ages. While the middle schoolers learn about the life cycle of Lachat's bees, toddlers will embark upon a scavenger hunt led by volunteers from Weston's high school. Adult visitors to the market will sample red carrots, purple cauliflower and a craft beer. Seasonal cooking demonstrations will connect us with our food and allow for an appreciation of the change of seasons.

While the average age of farmers in Connecticut is increasing, the demand far outweighs the supply. There is a growing movement to support healthy, sustainable eating and living. The small family farms of Connecticut have a hard time competing in the marketplace but buying directly from the farmers gives them a fighting chance. This market will connect Weston residents to the bounty of local food, supporting local agriculture and promoting sustainability.

As a town property, we wish to encourage ownership by the town's people. The farm has been an oasis for the community and this is a sentiment the Market will strengthen. When modern life encourages a fast paced disconnect from our neighbors, Lachat Farmers Market will call for visitors to gather, linger and connect. Meet your spouse off the train on a Friday evening, purchase your week's produce and then sit down among friends to listen to the live music. The serene fields and music allow for the spiritual escape which is only possible in a town like Weston.

Only in the beginning stages of what will be a long history as a central hub of Weston, Lachat farm has already been a place of gathering for families, artists, professionals and both skilled and novice gardeners. The community garden, vibrant programming and promotion of the arts has proven a magnet for the people of Weston and its surrounding towns. The Lachat Farmer's Market will allow for the residents of Weston to disentangle from the hustle of modern life in order to connect to our neighbors, our food and the outdoors.